



DNRC Holds Fire Pilot Training

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) Air Operations Division held their Annual Fire Pilot Training May 17 and 18 at the Helena Airport. The training consisted of two days of intense schooling on United States Forest Service, DNRC and Federal Regulations. Pilots were given refresher courses on aircraft and radio operations at the fire. The affair ended on Friday with every pilots favorite, "The Check Ride."



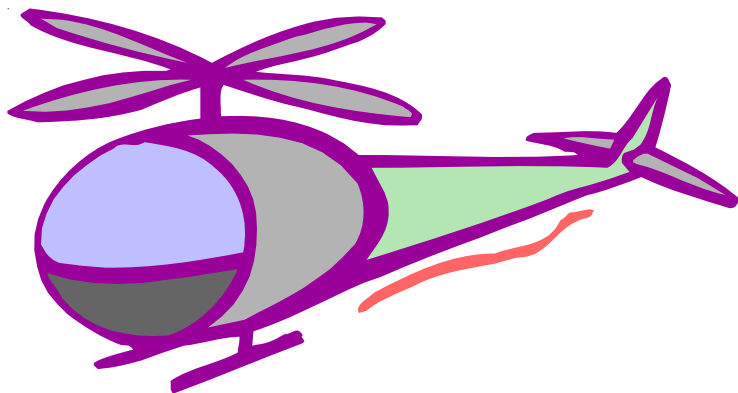
Bill Paulin, Kalispell banker/Initial Attack Pilot standing with 67 Mike, Helena's Spotter Plane.



Randy Yeager standing with Kalispell's Initial Attack "A" Team, Shawn O'Shaughnessy, pilot, Fred Holmes, fire supervisor, Bill Paulin, pilot, and Dick Brady, chief pilot. Kalispell's 185 Initial Attack Ship, 91 Mike, is seen in the background.



Fred Holmes, Kalispell firesupervisor, and Randy Yeager, safety pilot, standing with 92 Mike, Missoula's Initial Attack Huey.



Administrator's Column

Montana Air Service: Challenges and Opportunities – The air service study that is being undertaken by MDT with research being conducted by Wilbur Smith Associates is expected to be completed this fall. A draft final report was received in late 2005. Due to the significant changes to Montana's air service situation in the last quarter of 2005, the changes affected not only the data presented in the report, but potentially the findings. The technical panel met and chose to ask for an extension of the contract given the depth of changes to the air service environment. The delay will allow the document to present more current information and statistics. MDT's Research Review Committee met recently and voted to approve the contract extension. The report will be shared upon receipt of the final product.

Delta to add Butte flight: An outpouring of community support has convinced Delta Airlines to reverse an earlier decision and add a third flight at Bert Mooney airport this summer. Delta eliminated half of its Butte flights in December after filing bankruptcy and announced in April it would not reinstate a third flight for summer. Letters, e-mails and phone calls poured in from Butte businesses and residents, out-of-state folks and from Governor Brian Schweitzer. The community came together to support the additional flight to Salt Lake City that will operate this July and August and tentatively March through August in 2007.

Airport Traffic Control Beacon Interrogator (ATCBI-6) at Bozeman: Construction on the electronics building for the Airport Traffic Control Beacon Interrogator (ATCBI-6) "beacon-only" facility at Bozeman was started at the end of April. This system will allow aircraft in the Gallatin Valley that are equipped with a transponder to be seen regardless of altitude, will provide increased safety margins and reduced air traffic delays. The ATCBI-6 will provide surveillance support to the Salt Lake City Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC). The ATCBI-6 provides greater target capacity, improved accuracy and better probability of detection with a reduction in false targets. Its high reliability also reduces maintenance and support costs. The system is being placed at three other airports: Redmond, Oregon; Vail, Colorado; and Jackson Hole, Wyoming — all popular airports with high levels of commercial traffic. The Gallatin Airport Authority has contributed \$1.5 million to this important safety project. The facility is expected to be operational by March 2007.

Regional Safety Action Team (RSAT) Meetings: Late last month, staff from the FAA regional office and others conducted RSAT meetings at the Billings-Logan International Airport and the Helena Regional Airport. The purpose of the meetings is to analyze the operations on the airport to ensure appropriate safeguards are in place to reduce the risk of runway incursions and surface incidents. Following the meeting, a Runway Safety Action Plan was developed for each airport and will be implemented to help reduce the risk and eliminate problems. Participants at the meetings included airport personnel, local and regional air traffic control staff, airline representatives, local tenants, fixed base operators and other FAA employees. Whether walking, taxiing or driving on the airport, follow appropriate procedures, be vigilant and aware of your position.

Lindbergh Named Spokesman for Mentor Program: Many of us heard Erik Lindbergh, grandson of Charles Lindbergh, speak at this year's aviation conference banquet in Helena. Erik represents the third generation of Lindberghs in the cockpit and has been chosen by AOPA as the national spokesman for AOPA Project Pilot. The enhanced Project Pilot program was recently unveiled at AOPA headquarters and is asking each AOPA member to identify a candidate for flight training, help that person get started, support and encourage him or her in earning a pilot certificate. Student pilots who have a mentor are more likely to earn their certificates. Erik will be a great mentor and spokesman for the program. Check out the details at www.aopaprojectpilot.org.



Montana and the Sky

Department of Transportation

Brian Schweitzer, Governor

Jim Lynch, Director

Official monthly publication of the
Aeronautics Division

Telephone - (406) 444-2506

Fax - (406) 444-2519

P.O. Box 200507

Helena, MT 59620-0507

<http://www.mdt.mt.gov/>

Debbie K. Alke, Administrator

Aeronautics Board

Tricia McKenna, Chairman

Craig Denney, Member

William (Bill) Hunt, Jr., Member

Fred Leistiko, Member

Lonnie Leslie, Member

Roger Lincoln, Member

Chuck Manning, Member

John Rabenberg, Member

Ted Schye, Member

Montana and the Sky

Is published monthly

In the interest of aviation in the
State of Montana.

Third Class postage paid at
Helena, Montana 59604

Subscription: \$5 per year

Editor: Patty Kautz

events

June 17 – Fly-in breakfast, Ogden Utah Airport. Sponsored by Oregon Regional Airport Association. For information, contact Red McDougall (801) 593-0293.

June 17-18 – Frank Bass Father's Day Fly-In. Fort Peck Airport. Steak Fry Saturday night and Father's day breakfast Sunday 8 –11 a.m. Boating & Camping. For motel reservations, phone Fort Peck Hotel (406) 526-3266 or (800) 560-4931. For further information, contact Lanny Hanson at (406) 526-3535.

June 17-18 – Father's Day Fly-In, Twin Bridges Airport. For further information, contact Kendra Horn (406) 684-5335 or email Kendra@rubyvalleyaviation.com.

June 18 – Fathers Day Fly-in at Dave and Bobbi Powers South of Laurel. Starts at 0700 and goes as long as you want to stay. Fathers eat free (blood of first born not required). All others cost is \$5. Call Bobbi at (406) 671-9317 for more information.

June 24 – North Central Hangar Fly-In, Breakfast and Toy Show, Havre. Fly in and see the new terminal, breakfast served 7 – 11 a.m. For further information, phone Darren (406) 390-1255 or Bob (406) 265-7394.

June 24 & 25 – Meadow Creek Work Session.

July 1 – Sandpoint, Idaho Fly-In. Warbirds, Classics, Homebuilts. Pancake breakfast. For further information, call Ken Jackson, Idaho Aviation Association, (208) 290-5863.

July 4 – Townsend Flight Festival and Brunch. 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. Contact Neil or Karen Salmi (406) 266-5400 or email n777sx@earthlink.net.

July 8 - Del Bonita Work Session.

July 14-16 – Schafer Meadows Work Session.

July 14-16 – Annual Staggerwing Fly-In, Seeley Lake (23S). BBQ catered Saturday evening by Lindemers – reservations necessary. Call (406) 677-3219 or email slk3219@blackfoot.net. Sunday morning Pancake Breakfast (8-11a.m.) sponsored by Seeley Lake Flying Club and Seeley Lake Senior Citizens.

July 15 – 2nd Annual Fly-In, Thermopolis, WY, Pancake Breakfast, Aviation Swap Meet. Call (307) 864-2488.

July 24-30 – EAA AirVenture 2006, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

August 3-5 – Montana Antique Airplane Association Three Forks Fly-In. For further information, contact Steve or Cindy Kleimer at (406) 586-2307 or sckleimer@aol.com.

August 4-6 – Splash-In, Fly-In Stillwater Landing. For further information, go to www.stillwaterlanding.com or email bill@stillwaterlanding.com.

August 8-11 – Aviation Career Academy (ACE) for sophomore, junior and senior high school students. Because of its immense popularity, the ACE camp is full, for further information, phone (406) 444-2506 (Jeanne or Shirley).

August 11-13 - McCall Family Fly-In, McCall, Idaho.

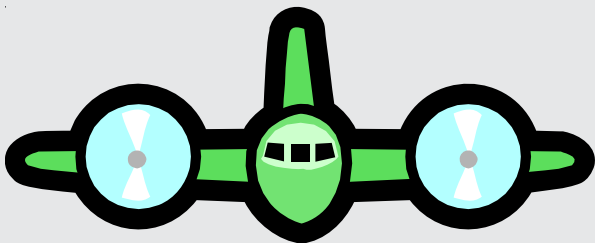
August 18-20 – Montana Fun Weekend, Cut Bank Airport. Fly-In with breakfast on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Car and airplane show and shine with prizes. Car burn out contest, lawn-chair drive-in movie, bowling ball bombing, RC models, drag racing and stock car racing.

August 19 – National Aviation Day

August 19 – Eighth Annual Polson Fly-In and Swap Meet. Pancake breakfast, lunch and pitchfork fondue (steak fry), swap meet, airplane rides, Soroptimist's Wine Festival. For more, information email Bill Olson at weo@commbank.net.

September 9 – Dillon Aviation Day. For further information, phone Jean Devivo at (406) 683-5242.

October 7 – Hirsch Ranch Fly-In, 30 miles northwest of Miles City.



There is an art . . . to flying. The knack lies in learning how to throw yourself at the ground and miss. – Douglas Adams, 'The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy'



Division Awards Scholarships

Montana Aeronautics Division was pleased to award two "Tools Beneath the Wings Scholarships" to Jacob High and Cody Jones enrolled in the Helena College of Technology's airframe and powerplant program. Jacob High is from Stevensville and has worked for Tamarack Helicopters. His future plans are to work on the Huey Helicopters and continue to work toward his Inspection Authorization (IA). Cody Jones is from the Bitterroot Valley. His earliest memories are of aviation. Cody's grandfather also attended the Helena College of Technology's airframe and powerplant program. Cody has one semester of school left and hopes to work in Montana as an Aviation Mechanic. Pictured (l-r) Jacob High, Brent Vetter, HCT Instructor, and Cody Jones.



McCall Family Fly-In Fun For All

Idaho Transportation Department's Division of Aeronautics will sponsor the fifth annual McCall Family Fly-In August 11-13.

Once a safety program for pilots and their aircraft, the Fly-In has evolved into an activity that attracts flying enthusiasts from throughout the region for a weekend of aviation exhibits, educational and safety seminars and entertainment.

This year's activities include a display of antique and unique airplanes, aircraft rides for kids, fly-bys and education and training opportunities for pilots. Pilots also can participate in Wings, a pilot safety program, and PACE (Pilot and Aircraft Courtesy Evaluation).

The weekend also will feature a behind-the-scenes tour of a fire center and the McCall Airport, contests, live music, a Boy Scout merit badge clinic and a pancake breakfast on Sunday.

The McCall Family Fly-In, which has become a summer staple in Valley County, is open to the public. Fees may apply for some activities.

A schedule of weekend activities will be available later. For more information, contact FusionSet, Inc. in Boise at (208) 343-6225.

Who, Me?

The telephone rings,
You jump out of bed,
Grab the receiver,
While scratching your head.

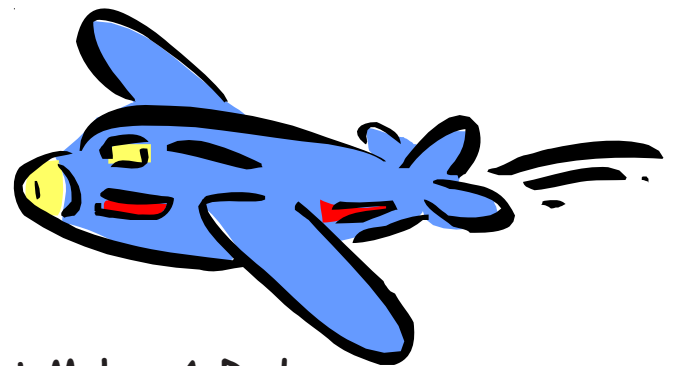
Now who can this be,
He ought to be hung,
Still he must be my friend,
'Cause my number he rung.

Hello, Who is it,
I was sleeping, my friend,
The FAA's calling,
Quite a pickle you're in.

Remember last night,
About fifteen to seven,
When you filed a flight plan,
ETA at eleven?

Well, it's now after three,
And no word we've received,
We've been searching for you
But now we're relieved.

So we've got a favor to ask,
(But he already knows it).
Next time you file one,
Please Mister, "CLOSE IT!"



What Makes A Dad

God took the strength of a mountain, The majesty of a tree,
The warmth of a summer sun, The calm of a quiet sea,
The generous soul of nature, The comforting arm of night,
The wisdom of the ages, The power of the eagle's flight,
The joy of a morning in spring, The faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity, The depth of a family need,
Then God combined these qualities, When there was nothing more to add,
He knew His masterpiece was complete,
And so, He called it ... Dad!
Happy Fathers Day!!

~Author Unknown~

CAP Cadet Honored

Cadet SMSgt Carl T. Schmidt, attached to Civil Air Patrol's Beartooth composite Squadron in Billings, has earned the Air Force Association's Award to Outstanding Civil Air Patrol Cadets. Cadet Schmidt has been a Civil Air Patrol cadet since April 2002 and has attended Civil Air Patrol's Blue Beret Training Encampment in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, two years in a row and plans to attend again this year.

Cadet Schmidt is on the cadet staff at Beartooth Composite Squadron and he is in his senior year at Billings Senior High School. The Civil Air patrol cadet program is a community based aerospace education orientated youth program which is officially recognized by the United States Air Force.



Vivion Renews Master CFI Accreditation



The National Association of Flight Instructors (NAFI) takes pride in announcing a significant aviation accomplishment on the part of Michael Vivion, the University of Minnesota Crookston aviation program manager and a resident of Crookston, MN. Recently, Mike's Master CFI (Certificated Flight Instructor) accreditation was renewed by NAFI, his professional aviation education association.

To help put his achievement in its proper perspective, there are approximately 87,000 CFIs in the United States. Fewer than 500 of them have achieved that distinction thus far. The last 11 national Flight Instructors of the Year were Master CFIs while Mike is one of only eight Minnesota aviation educators who has earned this prestigious "Master" title.

The Master Instructor designation is a national accreditation recognized by the FAA that is earned by a candidate through a rigorous process of continuing education and peer review. Much like a flight instructor's certificate, it must be renewed biennially. This process parallels the continuing education regimen used by other professionals to enhance their knowledge base while increasing their professionalism. Simply put, the Master Instructor designation is a means by which to identify those outstanding aviation educators, those "Teachers of Flight," who have demonstrated an ongoing commitment to excellence, professional growth and service to the aviation community.

Earning this designation is tantamount to having the words *summa cum laude* emblazoned on an instructor's certificate. These Masters truly represent the *crème de la crème* of our industry! To publicly recognize these individuals and their noteworthy accomplishments, NAFI will be hosting its "Meet the Masters" breakfasts, to which Mike will be invited, during EAA's AirVenture in Oshkosh and Sun 'n Fun in Lakeland. Any support that can be provided will be appreciated.

NAFI is dedicated to providing support and recognition for America's aviation educators while helping them raise and maintain their level of professionalism. It is also committed to providing a safe and effective learning environment for student pilots. The Association was founded in 1967 and affiliated with EAA in 1995.

Many of you know Mike as he has been one of our popular concurrent session speakers at the conference for many years. We congratulate him on this outstanding achievement.

The National Weather Service – And Flying Weather in Montana

By: Corey Bogel, National Weather Service, Glasgow

The National Weather Service (NWS) provides a wide array of products for the Montana aviator. There are four NWS offices across The Big Sky County. There are offices in Glasgow, Billings, Great Falls and Missoula which are all staffed 24-hours-a-day, 365-days-a-year with aviation meteorologists. In addition to the products that are produced at local NWS offices, The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) Aviation Weather Center (AWC) produces aviation products and flying weather information across the United States.

The Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts (TAF's) are produced for 17 terminals across the Treasure State. They provide the user with a concise statement of the expected meteorological conditions at the terminal for the next 24 hours. The Transcribed Weather Broadcasts (TWEB's) are produced for several routes across the state. The TWEB's provide a concise statement of the meteorological conditions expected along and near a designated flight path for the next 12 hours.

The aviation meteorologists at each of the NWS forecast offices use a wide variety of tools to prepare aviation products. Short range computer models aid the forecaster, but satellite, radar, pilot reports, upper air soundings and experience all play a big roll in the forecast process. From the mountains in the west to the prairie in the east, there are many local affects that the forecaster must carefully consider before issuing aviation products. Weather forecasting is not an exact science, and thus amendments or updates are made to the products when good weather has gone bad. One thing to keep in mind is that these products are designed to be used for planning purposes. Occasionally, an unexpected thunderstorm in the summer or snow squall in the winter will cause a TAF to become unreflective of the current conditions. As forecasters, we are trained not to "chase the TAF" or amend for very short duration events. If we can see something coming we do our best to update the products to reflect the expected conditions, but sometimes a storm may develop directly over the terminal.

In addition to the TAF's and TWEB's, the Great Falls office also prepares a weather synopsis for the state. An example of all of these products is contained below.

State synopsis issued by the Great Falls forecast office: **GTF SYNS 300214 AN UPR LVL TROF OVR WA IS MOV E AND WL MOV INTO WRN MT BY 05Z. A SFC CLD FRONT IS MOV E AT THE SAME PACE OVR THE SAME REGION. EXPECT SCT -TSRA TO CONT TO MOVE INTO WRN AND SW MT. SMALL GS AND GUSTY WND'S POSSIBLE WITH STRONGER STORMS. THE CLD FRONT WL BE OVR CNTRL MT BY 12Z SUN. MOSTLY CLR SKIES EXPD OVR ERN MT. THE AMS IS BECMG MOIST AND UNSTBL FRM W TO E.**

Example of a TAF for Glasgow, MT (KGGW): **KGGW 292320Z 300024 10010KT P6SM SKC FM1900 VRB05KT P6SM FEW090 BKN150=**

Example of a TWEB for Great Falls (KGTF) to Missoula (KMSO): **332 TWEB 300214 KGTF-KMSO. ALL HGTS MSL EXC CIGS. KGTF-CONTDVD P6SM SCT120 BKN250...07-14Z P6SM SCT090 BKN150 SCT -TSRA BKN080CB. CONTDVD-KMSO P6SM SCT090 BKN140 SCT -TSRA BKN080CB...07-14Z P6SM -SHRA BKN100 AREAS CIGS BKN040.**

In addition to the aviation products local NWS forecast offices provide, the AWC in Kansas City, Missouri produces many aviation products such as Airmets, Sigmet's and forecasts of turbulence, icing and convection. The AWC also has a "standard briefing" page which is intended as a tool to help pilots better visualize weather and weather-related hazards. It is not intended as a substitute for a weather briefing obtained from a Flight Service Station (1-800-WXBRIEF). Currently, the information contained does not meet the FAA requirements for a pre-flight brief, but the web page does contain many of the tools needed to be familiar with and the expected weather conditions for the flight. There are also links to surface observations (METAR's), as well as links to satellite and radar data.

For additional information, please check out the AWC's web site at <http://aviationweather.gov/>. Local NWS office's in Montana each have a home page and can be found at: Glasgow: <http://www.weather.gov/glasgow/> - Billings: <http://www.weather.gov/billings/> - Great Falls: <http://www.weather.gov/greatfalls/> - Missoula: <http://www.weather.gov/missoula/>

The National Weather Service in Glasgow always welcomes feedback on their aviation products. Contact Corey Bogel at (406) 228-4042, Corey.Bogel@noaa.gov or c/o NWS Glasgow 101 Airport Rd., Glasgow, MT 59230.



Safety Chat: See and Avoid

By: Jeanne MacPherson, Chief, Safety and Education Bureau

It is of utmost importance that VFR pilots see and avoid other aircraft. Vision is the most important tool that a pilot has to avoid other aircraft. Pilots should look in all directions and scan the sky. A mid-air collision is a tragic event and involves not just two pilots, but often occupants of the aircraft, resulting in multiple fatalities.

It was a beautiful VFR day in Chugiak, Alaska. It was just before noon when a Cessna 170 and a Cessna 172 collided in mid-air. The Cessna 170 was piloted by an airline transport pilot with his three children aboard. The 172 was piloted by a commercial rated pilot. All occupants sustained fatal injuries.

Closer to home, on December 7, 1997, near Gallatin Airport with 10-plus miles of visibility and a ceiling of 9,000 feet, a Pitts, bi-winged, aerobatic, airplane and a Cessna 206 impacted each other at an estimated altitude of 8,500 feet. The National Transportation Board determined the probable cause was the failure of both pilots to maintain a visual lookout.

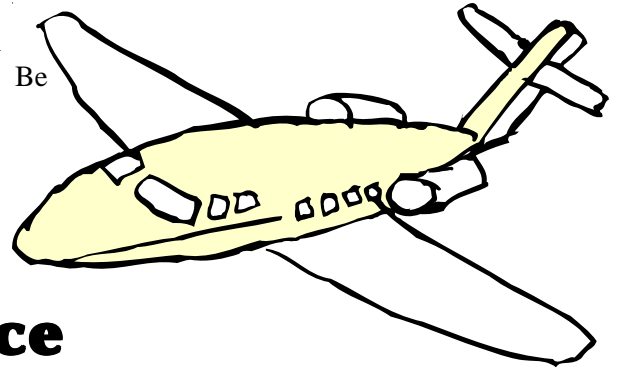
Despite the improving safety trends in aviation, mid-air collisions remain a safety concern. The vigilance of time spent scanning the sky should also include an understanding of the limitations of vision. No matter how good the visibility is from the cockpit, all aircraft have blind spots.

It is suggested that the time a pilot spends on visual tasks inside the cockpit should represent no more than four to five seconds on the instrument panel for every 16 seconds scanning outside. Since the brain is trained to process information from left to right, that is the recommended scan direction. Effective scanning is accomplished with a series of short, regularly spaced eye movements. Each movement should not exceed 10-15 degrees, and each area should be observed for at least one second.

Plan your flight ahead of time, and keep your cockpit organized and free of clutter. Be familiar with frequencies, headings and distances so your eyes can be looking outside more than inside of the cockpit.

Clean your windows. Bugs on the windscreen can obstruct your view of an approaching aircraft. Know your blind spots, and talk and listen on your radio. Be sure you are on the appropriate frequency and that the volume is turned up.

Please keep your eyes outside and scan! Fly Safe!



Silver State Hosts Conference

Silver State Helicopters (SSH), recently hosted its week-long, First Annual Safety Conference and Fly-In. A frenzy of aircraft filled the Las Vegas skyline as the company's instructors and pilots flew in a fleet of nearly 200 helicopters from 11 states (24 cities) to the North Las Vegas Airport for the conference. This was the first time in the world this many helicopters arrived in one location since Viet Nam.

The conference had 275 attendees, which included Silver State Helicopters' Founder and President Jerry Airola, the instructors and pilots who are employed with SSH and several designated specialist.

Silver State Helicopters shut down company wide operations for the week because safety is the company's top priority. The company flies more hours than the United States Army.

"We hosted this safety seminar before the hottest, most dangerous time of the year hits us," said Airola. "It's always better to be proactive instead of reactive. The safety record of Silver State Helicopters is impeccable. We are a certified commercial helicopter operator that handles a variety of aviation work. Our commercial operations has never had a single accident or incident, which is due to the intense training of our pilots and ground crew."

With its corporate headquarters based in Las Vegas, Silver State Helicopters has expanded its operations to include 24 locations throughout Nevada, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Utah and Washington. The company is the largest and most recognized helicopter flight training academy in the world with over 2,000 students at a time.

Silver State Helicopters also handles commercial aviation work including aerial tours, aerial photography, executive charters, law enforcement support, fire fighting, search and rescue, motion picture and television support, external load lifting and utility work and agriculture support.

Silver State Helicopters had only one helicopter when it started in 1999 and had two by 2001. Today, it operates a remarkable fleet of over 200 helicopters and employs more than 500 employees. Silver State Helicopters opened for business in Butte at the Bert Mooney Airport in January of 2005.

Challenge Education with Aviation at Hawthorne Elementary School



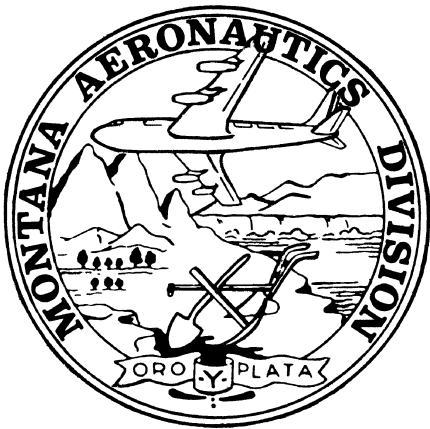
Teacher Eric Lehman with Hawthorne elementary students.

Two of the teachers that participated in this year's aviation teacher workshop held in conjunction with the Montana Aviation Conference put their new aviation teaching skills to work by incorporating aviation education in their classrooms. Both Eric Lehman and Peg Hunter of Hawthorne Elementary School in Helena made a strong impression on the 50 budding flight students by incorporating flight concepts to reading, writing, science and math.

The grand finale of the flight unit was held on June 1 at the Helena Regional Airport when the students had the opportunity to fly Montana Aeronautics Division's flight simulator, participate in the Young Eagle Orientation flights and visited the Helena Air Traffic Control Tower and the Aviation Support facilities of the Montana Army National Guard.

MDT produces 2,900 copies of this public document at an estimated cost of 39 cents each, for a total cost of \$1,131. This includes \$200 for production, \$750 for postage and \$181 for printing.

MDT attempts to provide accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person participating in any service, program or activity of the Department. Alternative accessible formats of this information will be provided upon request. For further information call (406) 444-6331 or TTY (406) 444-7696.



June 2006

Pre-Sort Standard
US Postage Paid
Helena, MT 59620
Permit No. 141

PO Box 200507
Helena, MT 59620-0507